



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

**Channing D. Phillips  
United States Attorney**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **District Man Sentenced to 14 Years for Shooting Death of Two Men**

WASHINGTON - Rodney Roberts, 24-year-old District man, was sentenced today to 14 years in prison in connection with the death of Ushaka Darby on March 16, 2009, U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced. On October 30, 2009, Roberts pled guilty to one count of Voluntary Manslaughter While Armed, and admitted shooting and killing Mr. Darby.

According to the government's factual proffer at the plea hearing, in the early afternoon of March 16, 2009, in the unit block of Chesapeake Street, SE, the defendant and Mr. Darby became embroiled in first a verbal, and then a physical, altercation. The confrontation began when the defendant approached Mr. Darby and told him to stop harassing an older man that lived in the neighborhood. During the ensuing physical altercation, Mr. Darby punched and cut the defendant in the head. After the fight ended, the defendant left the area to tend to his injuries, during which time a witness overheard him complaining about Mr. Darby and becoming visibly more and more aggravated. Approximately 15-30 minutes later, the defendant returned to Chesapeake Street, now armed with a loaded .357 revolver. The defendant approached Mr. Darby, who was unarmed and standing on a sidewalk in front of 40 Chesapeake Street, SE, and fired several shots at Mr. Darby as he attempted to flee from the gunfire. Mr. Darby ran to the front of a nearby apartment building, in the 4100 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, SE, before collapsing from his injuries. He died shortly thereafter.

In announcing the guilty plea and sentence, U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the work of MPD Detectives Kimberley Lawrence, Dean Combee, and Tony Patterson of the Violent Crime Branch, and Technician Stanley Rembish of the Mobile Crime Unit. He also praised Paralegal Specialist Ethel Gregory and Victim Witness Advocate Marcia Rinker of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Samuel Ramer and T. Patrick Martin, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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